



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2000: THE RUN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.

Editor's note: Most Americans, but particularly those who are Jewish, woke up Aug. 7th to the news that VP Al Gore had selected U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut as his Demo running mate. Lieberman is not only Jewish, he's an observant Orthodox Jew. Politically, he may be just what the doctor has prescribed for Gore's campaign. Here is our update & analysis...

...Lieberman had been on Gore's short list, but the betting was on either U.S. Senators John Kerry of MA or John Edwards of North Carolina. Thus Lieberman's selection took most insiders, and the news media, by surprise. There's no doubt Gore's selection of Lieberman was **bold**, as well as **historic**, in that it smashes one of the last remaining walls in American politics. And there's little doubt that Gore's selection of Lieberman has **trumped** Texas Gov. George Bush's selection of former DOD Sec. Dick Cheney as his running mate. All the spin about the GOP being "the inclusive party" has been overshadowed by Lieberman's selection...

...And a new CNN/Time survey (taken Aug. 7, 667 registered voters) showed Bush's **19 point** lead after the convention had **dropped to 2 points**: Bush **45%**, Gore **43%**, Ralph Nader **4%** and Pat Buchanan **1%**. This same survey showed that 53% thought Gore's selection of Lieberman was either excellent/good vs. 28% who viewed it as fair/poor, with 19% undecided...

...There is a big unknown, just as there was in 1960 when U.S. Sen. John Kennedy was nominated in L.A. Turned out that JFK's Catholicism didn't cost him the election. Make no mistake: there is **still** anti-Semitism in the U.S., but the **overt** kind has almost disappeared. But there's certainly **hidden** anti-Semitism...

...So why Lieberman? There aren't that many Jewish voters nationwide (3.5%) and only 5% in Calif., but they do turn out to vote – and in key **swing states**, such as Illinois and Pennsylvania, that could make a difference. But that isn't why Gore picked Lieberman. From the tone of the just completed RNC convention in Philadelphia it was obvious

that the GOP was going to make **values & morals** a key part of their attack on the Demo administration. So who better to provide the **values vaccine** than Lieberman, who was the first Demo in the U.S. Senate to strongly denounce President Bill Clinton's behavior in the Lewinsky scandal. Combine that with his crusade (with GOPer Bill Bennett) against too much violence & sex in tv, movies and music, and you've got a VP candidate who hits a responsive note with voters. Remember the **V-Chip**? That was Lieberman...

...**Values & morals** plays big with moderates, independent voters and especially soccer moms. These are key blocs which Gore is now having a tough time with. As for Lieberman's politics, he's a **centrist**. Unlike many Orthodox Jews, he's **pro-choice**. He's also strong on the **environment**; voted for tighter gun control (but he's not a wacko as CT is a big gun owning & manufacturing State); is a hardliner on **national defense** (he and Gore bucked the party in 1990 in voting for the Gulf War); and he takes a *New Demo* view toward **tax cuts**...

...Although he's not a dynamic/thrilling speaker, it's the substance of his message which counts. If there is a problem, it might be with the **liberal Demo base**. Lieberman is a free trader (supports NAFTA); has flirted with school vouchers; and at one time gave a look at partial privatization of Social Security. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK ON VACATION TO COVER DEMO CONVENTION

We will be on vacation beginning Aug. 10th and will return to work on Aug. 21st. We will be covering both the Reform Party and the Demo Party conventions. So this is a "working" vacation. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: A PREVIEW OF ASSEMBLY RACES.

Editor's note: Lasts week **Calpeek** began its coverage of Legislative contests with an overview of the State Senate elections in November. This week we'll look at the Calif. State Assembly...

...With Speaker Bob Hertzberg in command, Demos curren-

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tly hold a 46 to 32 advantage over their GOP rivals. One seat is vacant (newly elected State Sen. Nell Soto's 61st AD) and one seat is held by Oakland Assemblywoman Audie Bock(I). And while the Demos have more "turf" to protect, they also have a huge advantage in money. Demos have about \$6 million in their warchest vs. \$1 million for the GOP. Thus most sources say the Demos will continue to hold the Assembly in the next session...

The Slam Dunks

...As is the case in just about every election cycle, a large majority of the incumbents (23 Demos and 15 GOPers) are in very safe seats and are not considered to be "endangered." The registration is such that a challenger from the other party has little or no chance of pulling an upset. In addition, there are some very safe OPEN seats. Our sources count 11 safe Demo open seats and 8 safe GOP open seats. Add it up and it's Demos 34 vs. GOP 23...

The Watch List

...These are either open seats or seats held by incumbents which need to be watched carefully. In most cases, the advantage is with the incumbent or the party who currently holds the seat. We've underlined the incumbent. Here's our Watch List: 10th AD (Pescetti-R vs. Gravert-D); 37th AD (Strickland-R vs. McGrath-D); 69th AD (Correa-D vs. Lopez-R); 78th AD (Wayne-D vs. Steel-R); and 80th AD (Kelley-R vs. Acuna-D). In the 80th AD, State Sen. David Kelley is a favorite to hold this seat in the GOP column. In addition, we're watching the 67th AD and the 72nd AD. Both seats should be slam dunks for GOPers Tom Harman and Lynn Daucher, but with all the controversy surrounding their open primary wins, one never knows. Adding this category to the slam dunks, it's now Demos 36 vs. GOPers 28...

The Battle Zone

...There are 16 ADs in this category. Nine of the 16 are OPEN seats. Here's the Battle Zone list and an estimate as of this date as to which candidate is leading...

16 th AD	<u>Bock-I</u> vs. Chan-D. Leans D
17 th AD Open	Aghazarian-R vs. Matthews-D. Leans R
24 th AD Open	Jackson-R vs. Cohn-D. Toss Up
28 th AD Open	Denham-R vs. Salinas-D. Toss Up
30 th AD	<u>Flores-D</u> vs. Kay-R. Leans D
31 st AD	<u>Reyes-D</u> vs. Cabral-R. Leans D
35 th AD	<u>Jackson-D</u> vs. Sullivan-R. Leans D
41 st AD Open	Shapiro-R vs. Pavley-D. Leans D
43 rd AD Open	Missakian-R vs. Frommer-D. Toss Up
44 th AD Open	Liu-D vs. Carpenter-McMillan-R. Leans D
53 rd AD	<u>Nakano-D</u> vs. Felando-R. Leans D
54 th AD	<u>Lowenthal-D</u> vs. Svorinich-R. Toss Up

56 th AD	<u>Havice-D</u> vs. Hu-R. Toss Up
61 st AD Open	Yates-R vs. McLeod-D. Toss Up
76 th AD Open	Kehoe-D vs. Nash-Hoff-R. Leans D
77 th AD Open	La Suer-R vs. Keegan-D. Leans R

...If you add this category to the previous ones, it's now 44(D) vs. 30(R) with 6 toss ups...

...Of all the Demo incumbents under siege, Lowenthal and Havice are the most threatened. The GOP doesn't have any incumbents who are endangered, but two GOPers in safe seats may end up as targets: Lynn Leach in the 15th AD and Ken Maddox in the 68th AD. It will depend on resources...

...Perhaps the most interesting battle is taking place in Oakland's 16th AD, where former Green-turned-independent Audie Bock faces a formidable challenge from Alamada Co. Sup. Wilma Chan(D). Right now the odds favor Chan in this heavy Demo registration AD. For those with short memories, in one of the huge upsets in Calif. history, Bock defeated former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris(D) in a special election in 1999. It's too early to tell whether Bock's switch to independent has angered her Green & liberal base, but the odds are it has...

...Demos aren't taking any chances this time and Bock isn't rolling over. She's collected more than 10,000 signatures to get on the ballot and because she's up against the entire East Bay/Demo establishment, she's hired the Sacto-based GOP consulting firm of Russo Marsh + Rogers. Why a GOP firm? No Demo consulting firm who wants to remain in business could work for Bock. Chan has hired consultant Larry Tramutola. Of course the hiring of such a well-known GOP firm has Demos a little on the paranoid side. Demos are anxious to see Bock's next campaign statement in October to see if their paranoia is justified. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here's another update on some of the hot initiatives appearing on Calif.'s Nov. 7th ballot...

◆ **Prop. 34** – The sponsors of YES on 34 (Campaign Reform) have finally decided to call their overall support committee Citizens for Constitutional Campaign Reform. At first they tried Californians for...and then The Committee for...but ultimately decided on Citizens for...

◆ **Prop. 39** – This is the initiative to reduce the 2/3rds vote required to pass a local school bond measure. Instead of a 2/3rds vote, Prop. 39 requires a 55% vote. Now both sides are on radio and it's WWII. For those with short memories, in March the vastly underfunded NO side nar-

rowly defeated the YES side, which spent \$25 million in an attempt to pass Prop. 26 – which would have lowered the voting requirement to just 50%...

... What's of interest in this new battle is that the NO side, which goes under the name of Save Our Homes Cmt. – Vote NO on Prop. 39, will make a more concerted effort to raise a substantial war chest, unlike their rather small \$1.3 million bankroll in the spring. Led by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn., this new effort will attempt to raise between \$4 and \$7 million. That's 4 or 5 times less than what the YES side may spend, but it's still gives the NO side an opportunity to get its message out. The radio spot now airing for the NO side features Bd. of Equalization member Dean Andal(R). It was produced by consultant Bill Butcher. It's airing statewide in every major market. The idea is stay on radio the entire time between now and Nov. 7th and go on tv the last week, if the money comes in. In that regard, the NO on 39 campaign has hired Jordan McGill of NY to help in the fund-raising department. And political pr consultant Sheri Annis has been hired to help with the spin operation. In addition to tv and radio, the HJTA also will buy slates...

◆ **Prop. 36** – Lots of press and news stories are flowing about this highly controversial initiative to provide drug rehabilitation and treatment rather than prison or jail for 1st time/non-violent drug users. The Calif. Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, is the latest to endorse YES on 36. And while most of the Calif.'s law enforcement groups and elected officials are opposed, S.F. County DA Terence Hallinan is one of the few in support...

◆ **Prop. 38** – We now know why opponents of Prop. 38, the school voucher initiative, are so steamed up over the first round of tv ads by the YES side. For those who haven't been following, almost immediately after the NO side played its first ad featuring Calif. Gov. Gray Davis, the YES side used a short video clip of Davis saying more needed to be done to improve Calif. schools. Not only was Davis' statement taken out of context, but it turns out the video clip of Davis was taken during the governor's state of the state address by the Assembly Television Project. So this footage can't be used for political purposes and that's why there's this big stink. Davis has demanded that the YES side pull the ads, but that's not going to happen so it's likely there could be some legal action soon...

... FYI: In addition to the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. being opposed to 38, so is GOP Assemblyman Abel Maldonado of Santa Maria. He is the first GOP assembly-member to oppose 38. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: IS IT TO TIME FOR A POLITICAL OBIT FOR THE REFORM PARTY? MANY THINK SO.

Editor's note: It now appears more than likely that former GOP hardliner Pat Buchanan will win the Reform Party USA's nomination on Aug. 12th in Long Beach. Does Buchanan's nomination signal the end of the Reform Party? Here is **Calpeek's** analysis & commentary...

... The Reform Party USA, founded in 1991-92 by Texas billionaire Ross Perot, is dead. But it didn't die because of Buchanan's candidacy. Reform Party began to unravel with the election in 1998 of MN Gov. Jesse Ventura, who almost immediately became a news media darling – with speculation about a 2000 run for the presidency. And with Perot still on the scene – *the battle of egos* was soon joined. One has to remember that the Reform Party was Perot's creation and anyone who would challenge his claim to leadership would find themselves in a fight. And that's exactly what happened. RPUSA state leaders who were drawn to Ventura soon found themselves at odds with Perot loyalists...

... The battle was so intense it was obvious the two sides would never get together. In the *chaos* Buchanan saw an opportunity. Buchanan was going nowhere in the Republican Party – he was DOA the day Texas Gov. George W. Bush's first exploratory efforts got underway. And given the political sophistication of both Pat and his sister Bay Buchanan, who serves as Pat's campaign mgr., it wasn't difficult for them to map out a strategy to win the Reform Party USA nomination – and with it some \$12.5 million in matching federal funds...

... The strategy was simple: if Buchanan could get control of more than 2/3rds of those delegates set to attend the Reform Party convention in Long Beach, he could control the entire party. Even if some last minute challenger decided to mount a late primary campaign, the delegates on the floor could overturn the verdict with a 2/3rds vote. Buchanan's tactics of winning delegates wasn't pretty and some say he used strong armed tactics. But always remember that politics is a *contact sport* – so wimps should step aside...

... With no Donald Trump, no Ventura and no Perot, Perot loyalists were desperate to find an alternative to Buchanan. They tried to entice U.S. Sen. John McCain(R-AZ) and Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader. Neither was interested. Natural Law presidential candidate John Hagelin was the final hope. But there is a saying in politics: *you can't beat a somebody with a nobody*. And John Hagelin is a nice guy, very bright, but he's a nobody without much political savvy. The only way for Hagelin to have won

the RPUSA nomination would have been if Perot had stepped forward to help openly. He didn't...

...The Perot loyalists may try to challenge Buchanan's claim to the federal matching funds, but our sources think it won't fly. Buchanan has *no chance* of beating either Bush or Al Gore, but he more than Hagelin will cause some sleepless nights for Bush. And in the end, that would please RPUSA founder Ross Perot. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: CITY AND COUNTY INITIATIVES.

Editor's note: Last week Calpeek reported about the two initiatives in Orange & Ventura Counties dealing with the use of tobacco settlement funds. This week we'll focus on a whole range of local initiatives. Here's our update...

◆ **Terms Limits in L.A. Co. Fails** – Supporters of a two-term limit for L.A. County Supervisors will have to try again, because their effort to qualify for the Nov. 7th ballot has *fallen short* by 1,120 valid signatures. Voters Organized for Trustworthy Elections(VOTE) turned in some 298,000 signatures, with 197,568 needed to qualify. The L.A. Co. Registrar went to a full count July 19th when the random sample count fell short. The County Registrar added extra staff to make the full count in less than 3 weeks time. Staff even worked weekends. Cost for the extra staff: \$250,000. Former County Sup. Pete Schabarum provided the funding for this initiative...

● **Library Effort in San Diego** – Several weeks ago, the San Diego Council, on a 6-2 vote, placed a local initiative on the Nov. 7th ballot which will require the council to spend 6% of the general fund on public libraries. In the current budget, the council provided 4.1%. If approved, there will be a gradual increase until library spending reaches 6%. San Diego Taxpayers Assn. is opposed...

◆ **Alameda Co. Transportation Tax** – The Alameda Co. Board of Supes has placed Measure B on the Nov. 7th ballot to hike the sales tax by ½ cent, with the funds going for road and transit projects. The tax would generate about \$1.4 billion. Funds would be used for mass transit, ease major traffic bottlenecks, repair roads/streets/highways. In 1998, a similar measure was defeated (only got 58%), but many of those on the NO side two years ago are *now* in support. A 2/3rds vote is required. The YES side has hired Barnes, Mosher, Whitehurst & Partners. Although a number of key groups are in support, such as the Sierra Club, the influential Rail Passenger Assn. will remain neutral...

◆ **L.A. Co. Board from 5 to 9** – The L.A. Co. Board of Supes has placed an initiative on the Nov. 7th ballot to expand the number of elected supervisors from 5 to 9. At least

two county supes will actively work against this plan: Don Knabe and Zev Yaroslavsky. Yaroslavsky would have been in favor had the Board voted to link the expansion with a plan for an elected county executive, but they didn't so he's opposed. Question: who puts the money for the YES side???

◆ **Anti-Living Wage Initiative** – In what promises to be a costly and perhaps nasty campaign, a coalition of Santa Monica hotels has collected a good sized warchest to promote an initiative which requires the city council to give pay raises to some city workers, but bans the council from passing a citywide living wage law. Such a law would require pay hikes for some 3,000 non-unionized hotel workers. The hotel coalition, which goes by the name of Santa Monicans for a Living Wage, collected the required 9,815 signatures. Barnes Mosher Whitehurst & Partners handled the petition/signature drive...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: John T. Hay, 79, the former president of the CA Chamber of Commerce, died July 20th of prostrate cancer. Hay lead the CofC from 1967-86. R.I.P...

● The L.A. Boys & Girls Club has named board member Howard Sunkin as the new board president. Sunkin heads Cerrell Associates' local govt. affairs unit...

● L.A. public affairs & political consultant Kelly Hayes-Raitt has been elected treasurer of the Assn. of CA Commissions on the Status of Women...

● The Gore 2000 Calif. campaign has moved to 515 S. Flower St., 41st Floor, L.A. 90071. ☎(213)387-5005...

● Tom Fuentes, chair of the Orange Co. GOP Central Cmt., has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the So. Orange Co. Community College District. Fuentes will actually run for this seat in November...

● John Wallace, former COS to L.A. Co. Sup. Don Knabe, is now the director of communications for L.A. Co.'s Health Dept...

● Gov. Gray Davis has appointed Joan M. Wilson as director of the CA State Lottery. Wilson was a government affairs executive with 7-Eleven, Inc...